STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD BOARD WORKSHOP SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

WORKSHOP ON THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND DRAFT STIPULATED ORDER FOR FUTURE ACTION BY THE STATE WATER BOARD

DISCUSSION

On October 28, 2002, the State Water Board issued Order WRO 2002-0013 that approved the long-term transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority, the Coachella Valley Water District, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. On December 20, 2002, the State Water Board issued Order WRO 2002-0016, which revised Order WRO 2002-0013. On November 18, 2014, the Imperial Irrigation District filed a Petition for Change seeking modification of Revised Order WRO 2002-0013. In May 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. established the Salton Sea Task Force to identify realistic short and medium term goals to respond to potential air quality and ecological impacts resulting from scheduled reduced flows of fresh water to the Salton Sea. As a part of the Salton Sea Task Force, the State Water Board regularly monitors and assesses progress on the implementation of the Salton Sea Task Force's Salton Sea Management Program, and has held five public workshops as part of this function. For more information about the background and history of the State Water Board's involvement with the Salton Sea, please visit the State Water Board's web page at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/salton_sea/

On March 15, 2017, the Imperial Irrigation District submitted a Motion for Evidentiary Hearing to the State Water Board regarding potential modification of Revised Order WRO 2002-0013. As a result of the motion, a Draft Stipulated Order has been developed for consideration by the State Water Board. The purpose of this workshop is to solicit public input on the Salton Sea Management Program and the Draft Stipulated Order. At a later date, the State Water Board may consider a resolution to adopt the Draft Stipulated Order.

POLICY ISSUE

The State Water Board's interest is to ensure that restoration solutions will be achieved in a timely manner while standing ready to engage at various levels. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

State Water Board action for this workshop will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that Water Board goals and actions are clear and accessible.